

## Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel Hubbard Bell, August 27, 1900, with transcript

ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL TO MABEL (Hubbard) BELL S. S. Ulunda — on the Thames. August 27th, 1900. Mrs. A. G. Bell, 9 rue Boccador, Paris, France. My darling Mabel:

Received your telegram on reaching steamer, and have sent you the following unicode message which you may have some fun in deciphering.

“Roboro, Diallage, Siquando, Adalligo, Promulgo Bert.” Signinas.

Am getting nervous about you not having a man on your floor. Have an electric bell put in Charles' room with a push-knob in your room — so that you can ring for him in the middle of the night if need be. It will be a great comfort to me to know that this has been done. I cannot hear from you for many days but feel sure I can trust you to have this done at once because you know I feel badly about it.

This steamer is an awful disappointment — looks like a tramp — and slow — goodness gracious the agents say 13 or 14 days — not due in Halifax till about September 9th. Feel very like turning back — but passage all paid money would not be refunded — and how could I get over any quicker as New York steamers are crowded.

I wonder how I will fare — as I don't suppose they have a refrigerating chamber for meat. Guess I will commence coming down in weight at once — and be thin as a rail before 2 I reach Baddeck.

If not due till September 9th — how can I go to Baddeck and then meet your mother in New York on the 12th. Perplexed what to do. Send me a cable in about a week directed to S.S. Ulunda, St Johns, Newfoundland. We have to call there en route to Halifax.

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Maddening — isn't it? However, I don't mind the sea — but — I do mind absence from you and inability to hear from you. Oh! for a Marconi—and free communication with shore all the way across.

If I find at St. Johns some steamer sailing direct for Sydney — may change into her from the Ulunda if by doing so — I can gain time. Will not do so without cabling you of the change.

Think you better do something about holding mail at Baddeck otherwise Grosvenor's letter to me may be on its way across the Atlantic — to you — before I get it! If you do not cable — perhaps you better write to him to hold mail. Why not tell him (marked strickly private and confidential) that I have sailed by the Ulunda via St. Johns, Newfoundland. Just as well that some one on the other side should know I am coming and look out for news of the vessel. McInnis would have a grand time trying to keep the secret. Don't fail to cable me at St. Johns, Newfoundland, with much love to Elsie Daidums and your dear self.

Your loving husband, Alec.

P. S. This letter and my cipher telegram will be taken 3 ashore at Dover.

A nice-looking set of passengers.

A.G.B.